

JUDGES DENY IT

Industrial Court Heads Contract Fairchild Charges.

They Say Politics Did Not Enter

TRouble OVER PHONE RATES
Judge Huggins Makes State-
ment Regarding Hearing.

Shawnee County Judges Refuse to Enter Discussion.

unity rate making, aroused heated denials in the state house today. Judge W. L. Huggins, presiding judge of the court of industrial relations and Judge Clyde M. Reed, former judge of the court, denied Judge Fairchild's statements.

attacked the policies of the former industrial court in fixing rates. He said the policies of the court were inspired by political ambition and that the orders and rulings were made for political effect and benefit. The charges that the court played politics recalled in the state house today a statement which Judge Higgins made

position to the divorce bill. He said the industrial court was not burdened with too much work, but with too much politics.

No Politics, Says Huggins.

Because of his judicial position Judge Huggins stated today he was not in a position to discuss Judge

"I want to say that I didn't play politics in this"—the Bell telephone rate case—"or any other case," said Judge Huggins. "Judge Fairchild's statement was made from where I couldn't be answered. Judge Fairchild and myself might accuse each

"The telephone rate cases were in Judge Wark's department. And I want to say that he didn't play politics. That is the reason he is not on the court today. He didn't play politics but stayed on the job and worked and refused to run around to political conventions and gatherings. If Judge

Charges Unwarranted Says Reed.
Judge Clyde M. Reed, now a member of the public utilities commission, was called from the commission hearing room today and asked for a statement regarding the charges. "They are positively unwarranted and without foundation," he said.

Refuses To Make Statement.

Charges by William G. Farichille, newly elected judge of the Ransom county district court at Hutchison, to the effect that the Shawnee county district court was guided by collusion and political manipulation in granting

Both the Shawnee county judges who sat jointly in the hearing laughed when asked for a statement

tion and replied that they had no statement to make. They evidently considered it beneath the dignity of the Shawnee county bench to enter into a petty controversy with another judge relating to a question which they had settled in the only way possible according to the law and the evidence in the case.

"The case was decided according to the statute," said Judge McClure. "As far as I am concerned, it is past history and I do not wish to make any statement regarding Judge Fairchild's charge, if he really said what he reported as saying."

the local decision in favor of the telephone company was obtained "by collusion and political manipulation to shield the industrial court from public criticism for its activity in increasing service rates in Kansas." The statement was made when Judge Fairchild denied application of the telephone

The case in controversy is that which the Bell telephone company recently filed an application in the district court asking for a temporary injunction to prevent the attorney general and public utilities commission from interfering with the collection

The findings in the hearing, now on record in the district court, show the statute provides a fine of \$1,000 a day for public utilities collecting at an unauthorized rate.

Whitcomb mildly censured the state tribunal for its slowness in passing on the application of the telephone company for an increase in rates. The case had been tried and submitted to the industrial court five months before, the findings relate, and a decision was still withheld, altho the com-

The findings show that prior May, 1920, Bell employees made numerous requests for increased wages. Officers of the company were told that members of the industrial court thought if the wage dispute was settled without mediation by the court that the company might then file its application.

would be investigated thoroughly and decided promptly. Wage increases aggregating \$289,000 were then granted and applications for increases thereafter filed. The applications were filed

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